Fantastic picks!...but how do you make them? This manual takes you by the hand and shows you how to turn a useless broken piece of 'street-bristle' into a fine tool. These tools will open locks that frustrated you time and time again.







Function and operation

These picks (or rakes) are called 'Bogota' rakes. The peaks are narrow and the valley's are wide. Take a lock apart and insert the rake into the keyway. You will notice that if you move the rake, the pins will be lifted just up to the shearline.





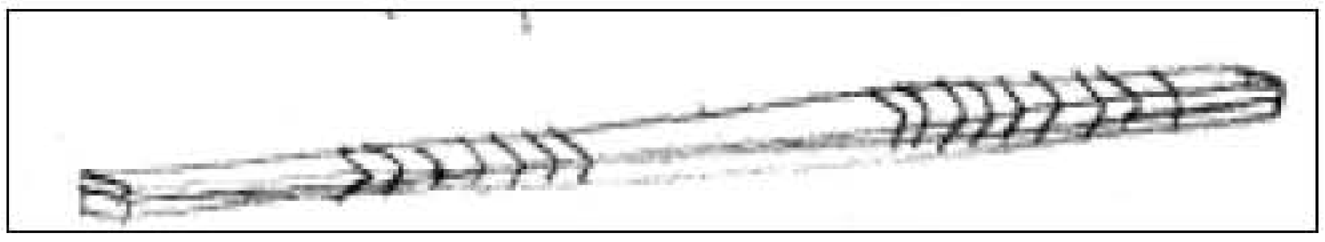


The way to operate these picks is to apply some light tension with a tensor (can be the backside of a pick, see below) Insert the rake and quickly jiggle it (like you had too much coffee..) The pins will be lifted up to the shearline. These picks work extremely well on locks with safety / mushroom pins.

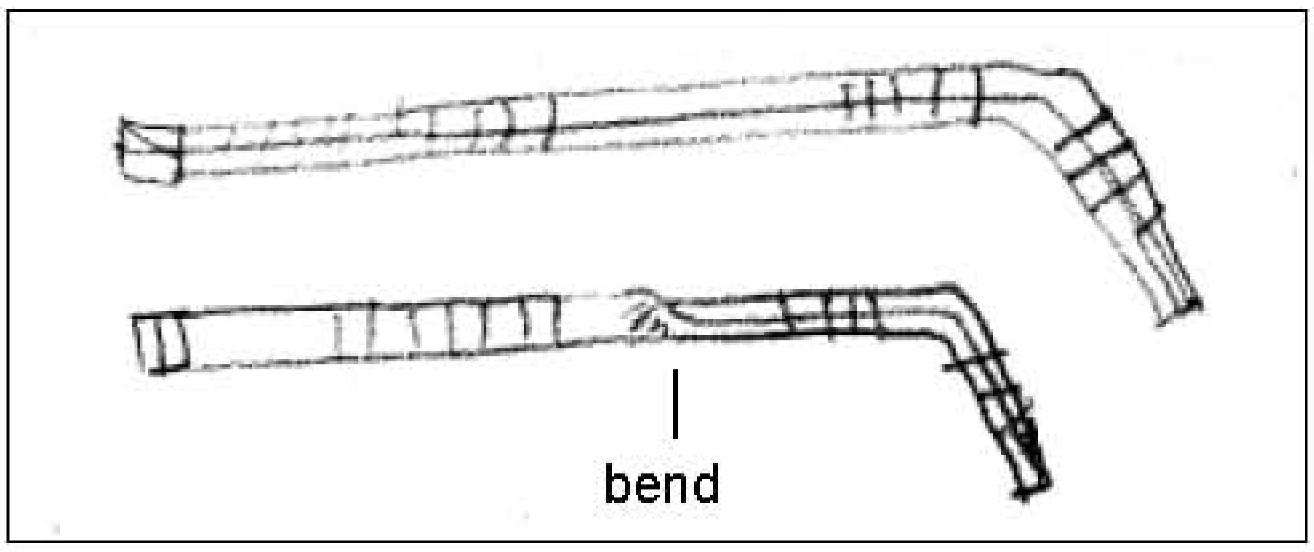
Production

To create these tools (if you can't find a source for ready made ones) you need street bristle. Just the broken pieces that you can find in the street. You need sanding paper, a chainsaw file and a flat file, pliers and a small heating source. These picks are handmade...we don't use any electrical devices to produce these fine tools. They will break if you do...

1. Take 2 pieces of bristle and bind together with wire.

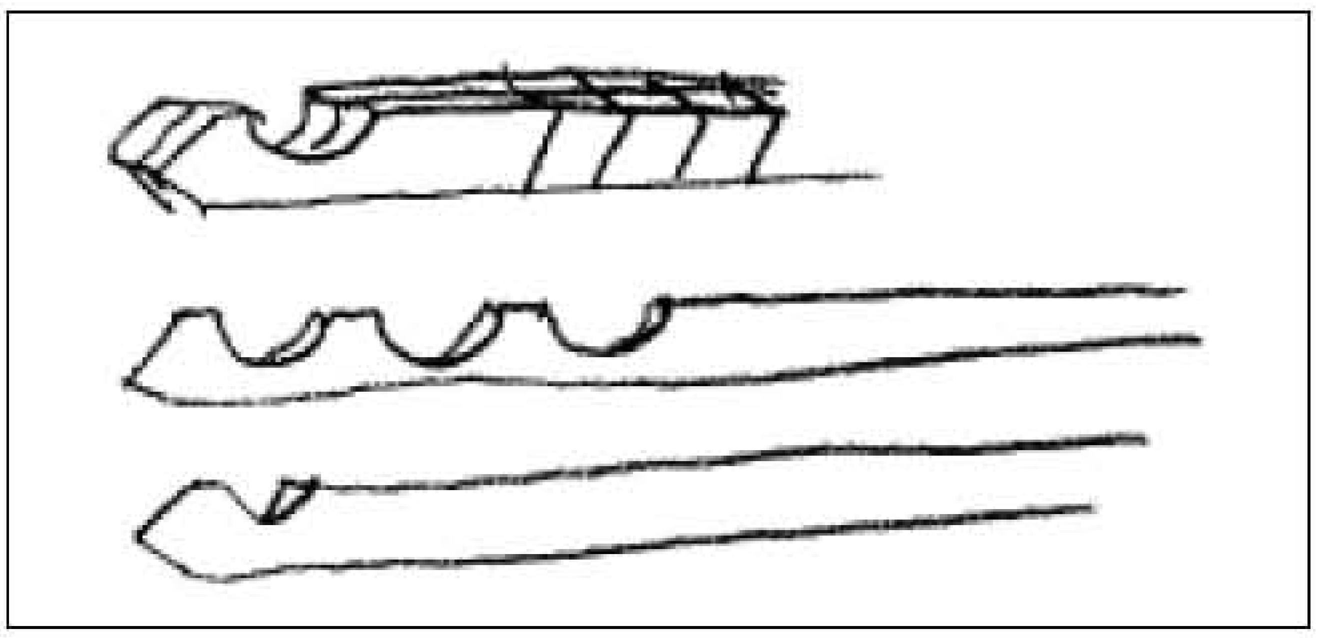


2. Bend them and inspect them for any cracks afterwards. If they are damaged, throw them away and start over. Don't waste time on bad pieces of steel.

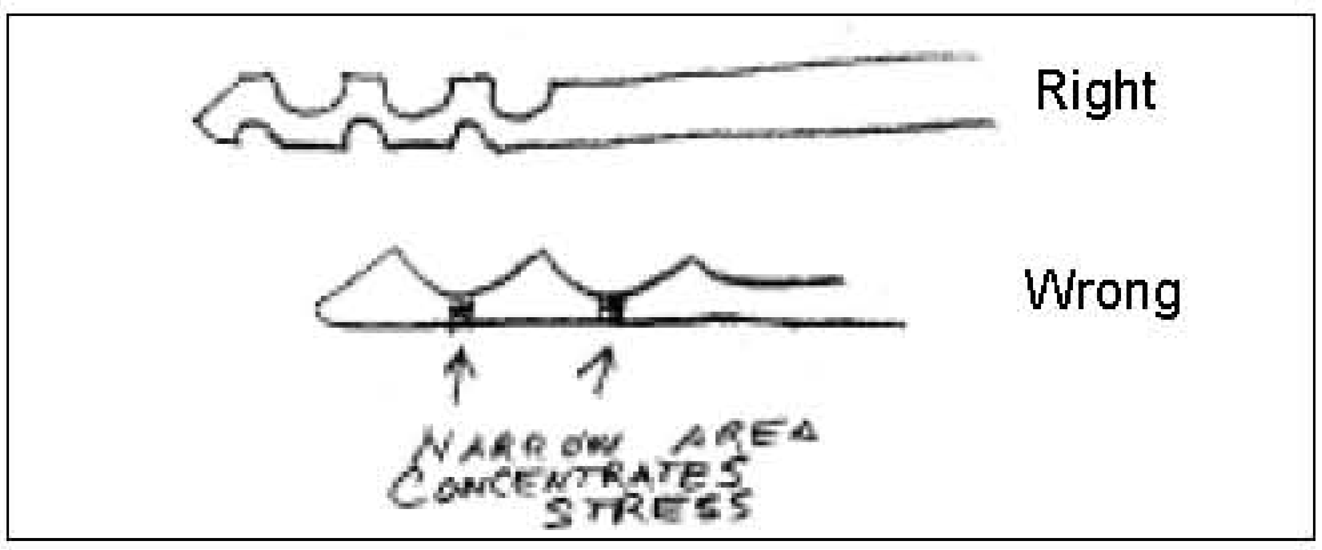


3. Cut to length and use a chainsaw file to make the first cut in both pieces of steel identical.

4. Seperate both pieces and make 2 extra cuts on the rake. Leave the pick as it is.

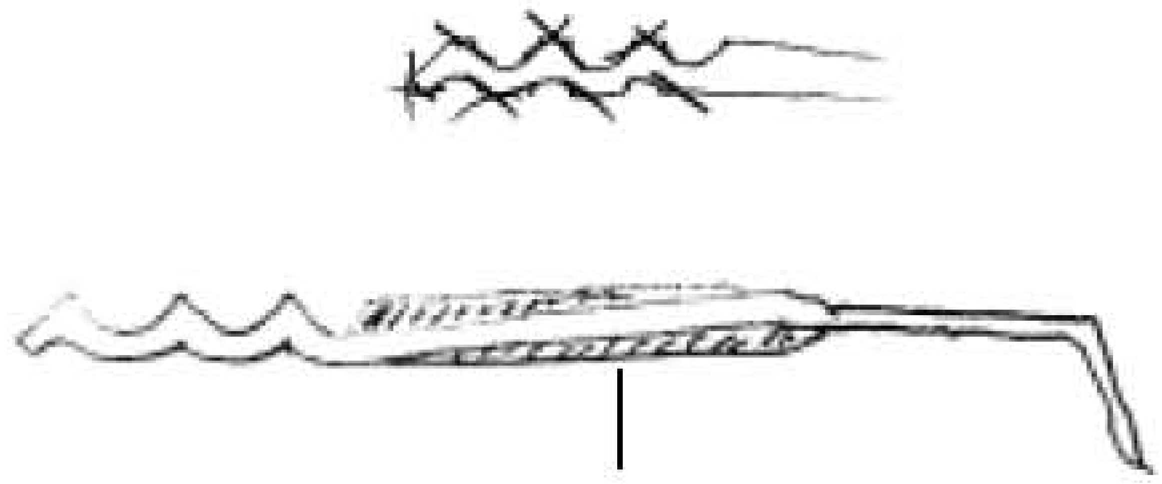


5. To have a pick/rake that last, you need to make undercuts as well. This takes away stress on the metal. It avoids that a pick will break. By making undercuts, the stress is distributed.



Finishing

6. Now gently use the file to make all cuts and remove the black area to shape the pick. Watch the back end of the pick. That side will be used as a tensor. Because both pieces of steel were made equal, you can fit them together as a set (see pictures below) One can operate as a pick or rake and the other can be used to apply torque. You will have a complete set with you all the time.

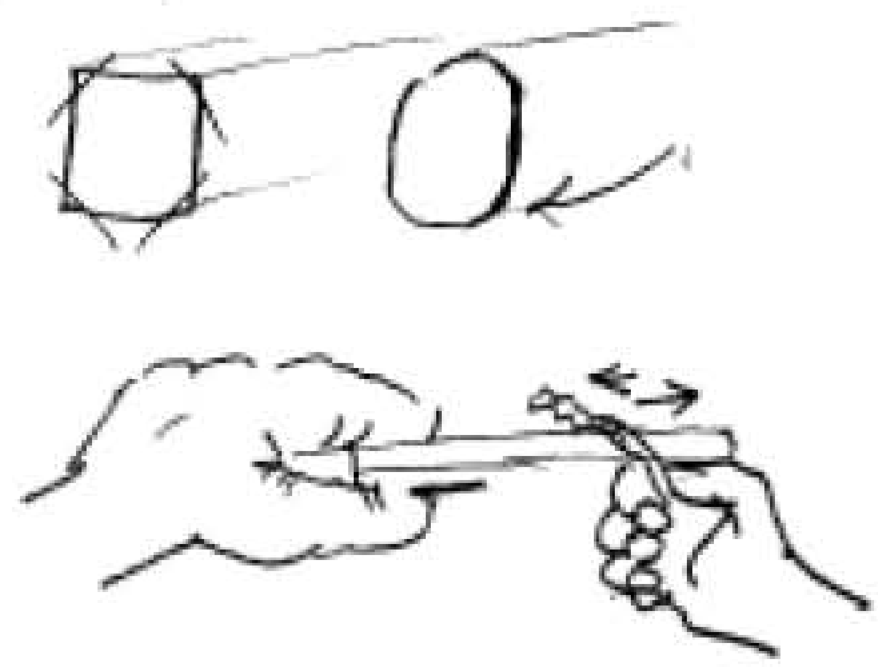


File away (flat file) and shape the pick.

7. Make sure to round all edges. This will make your tools perfect. Use black sand paper. Use different grits for different tasks.

220 grit - for shaping
320 grit - intermediate step
400 grit - for fine finish
600 grit - to polish

A chop stick is a perfect aid. Move along the pick over the sand paper wrapped stick. (see image)



8. Final sanding. Fold a piece of sanding paper and move the pick in and out. The result should look like the images below.

Because you've made 'pairs' these picks can be carried along easily. Watch the mini pick set in a spring with the safety pin. Don't leave home without it...





Finished pick



Finished pick



mini pick set



mini pick set 'to go'



Ergonomic handle

Pick design: Raimundo o' Conner
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